

Message Text

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16
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USNATO 1464

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, MARR, EC, IC
SUBJECT: NATO INVOLVMENT CLAIMED IN EC NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN IMPORTANT EDITORIAL IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY PAPER TIMINN
JULY 18, TIMINN EDITOR AND ALTHING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN HORARINN THORARINSSON, DISCUSSED PLANNED INFORMAL
SOUNDINGS BETWEEN ICELAND AND EC SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS
MONTH. HE PUT THE NATO COUNTRIES CLEARLY ON NOTICE THAT THEY
WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING AN OUTCOME OF NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH THE EC SATISFACTORY TO ICELAND. HE SAID,
"AT THIS STAGE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE EC'S PROPOSALS
WILL BE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE TALKS BUT WE CAN GUESS IT
WILL INVOLVE REQUESTING SOME FISHING RIGHTS FOR THE BRI-
TISH SINCE THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE WEST GERMANS AND THE
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BELGIANS WILL STILL BE IN EFFECT AFTER THE OSLO

AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH EXPIRES.
PROBABLY THE EC WILL OFFER SOME FISHING RIGHTS IN RETURN
WITHIN THE JOINT FISHING JURISDICTION OF THE EC
COUNTRIES. BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN THAT JOINT FISHING
JURISDICTION WILL GO INTO EFFECT. AND UNTIL SUCH TIME,
WE CANNOT ENTER INTO ANY ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
EC OVER RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS...ICELAND CANNOT
GRANT FISHING RIGHTS BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.
SOME MEMBERS OF THE EC HAVE THREATENED THAT THE PRO-
VISIONS OF ARTICLE 6 WILL BE REVOKED IF WE HAVE NOT
REACHED AN AGREEMENT BY DECEMBER 1, WHEN THE OSLO AGREE-
MENT EXPIRES. ICELANDERS WOULD NOT ONLY LOOK ON THIS AS
HOSTILITY BY THE EC BUT ALSO FROM NATO SINCE EIGHT OUT
OF THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE EC ARE ALSO IN NATO. ICE-
LAND WILL NOT YIELD IN A BUSINESS WAR ANY MORE THAN IN
A COD WAR. WE SET FOR OURSELVES THE GOAL THAT WE WOULD
NOT TALK WITH THE BRITISH WHILE THEY HAD MILITARY SHIPS
HERE AND IT IS JUST AS LIKELY THAT WE WOULD NOT TALK
WITH THE EC WHILE THEY USED TRADE COERCION OR THREATS
OF TRADE COERCION. WE SINCERELY SAY TO ALL MEMBERS OF
NATO THAT THEY MUST REALIZE THE FACT THAT ICELAND'S
ECONOMY IS BASED ON THE COD FISH STOCK AND THERE
ISN'T MUCH LEFT TO SHARE. WITHOUT EXPERIENCING IT, WE
WILL NOT BELIEVE THAT THE POSITION OF THE EC WOULD NOT
BE FORMED WITHOUT FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR
ECONOMIC POSITION."

2. WE BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT IS A SIGNIFICANT ONE AIMED AS
MUCH AT THE UNITED STATES AS AT NATO OR ITS OTHER MEM-
BERS. THIS IS OPENING GUN IN CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT REVOCATION
OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS TO ICELAND BY EC EVEN THOUGH ICELAND
MAY REFUSE TO MAKE ANY FISHERIES AGREEMENTS BEYOND THOSE
NOW IN EFFECT. MORE WILL BE HEARD ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF NATO IN THIS MATTER AND WE CAN EXPECT, AS TIME GOES
ON, THAT WE WILL BE TOLD THAT RESPONSIBILITY DEVOLVES UPON
THE UNITED STATES.

3. BOTH PRIVATELY AND IN THE PRESS OVER PERIOD SINCE OSLO
SETTLEMENT, IT HAS BEEN STATED THAT "ICELAND DOES NOT ACCEPT"
ANY CONTENTION THAT ARTICLE 6 TARIFF CONCESSIONS COULD BE
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REVOKED ONCE IMPLEMENTED. WHEN BOTH OFFICIALS AND PARTY
LEADERS HAVE BEEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF EC DID
REVOKE CONCESSIONS, ANSWER HAS ALMOST INVARIABLY BEEN,
"THEN IT WILL BE BAD FOR NATO AND THE BASE." HAVING BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN USING THIS KIND OF THREAT IN THREE COD WARS,
IT WOULD PERHAPS BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT IT WOULD NOT
BE USED AGAIN.
MARTIN

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